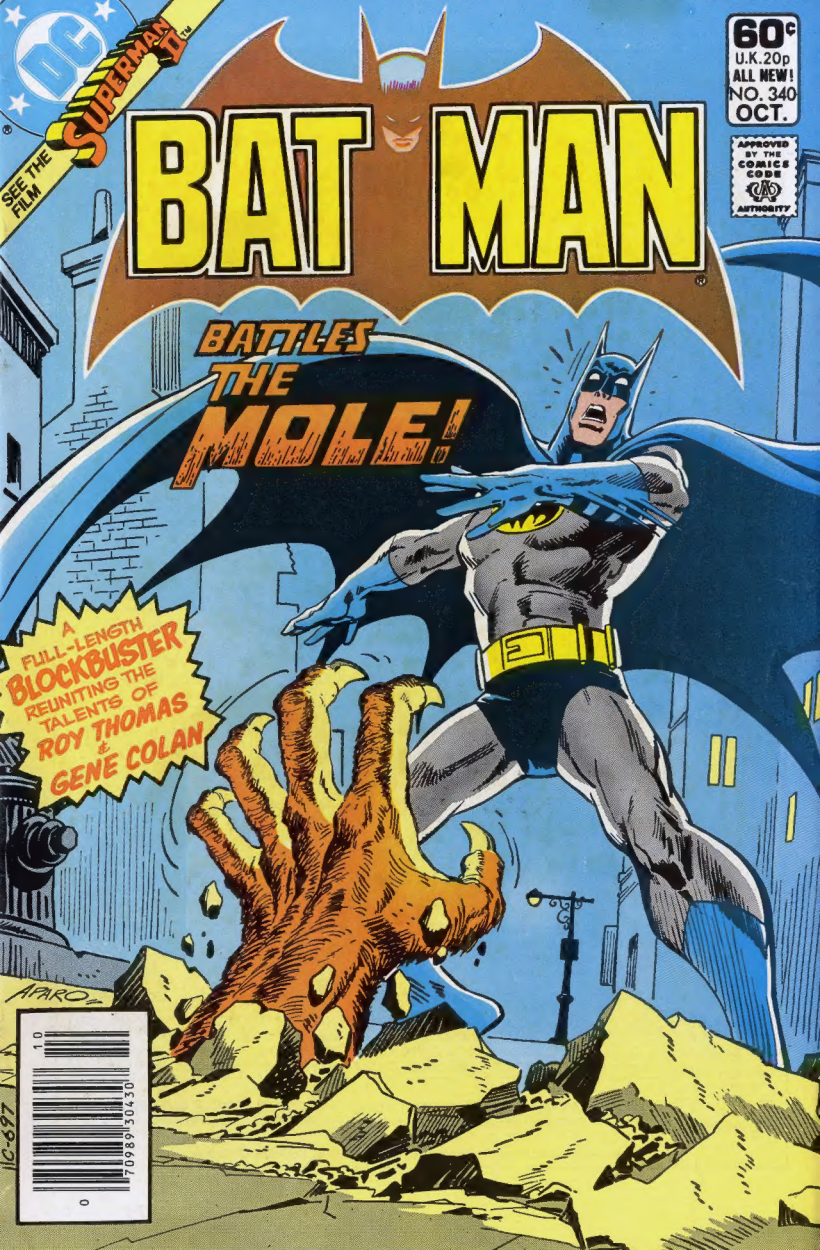
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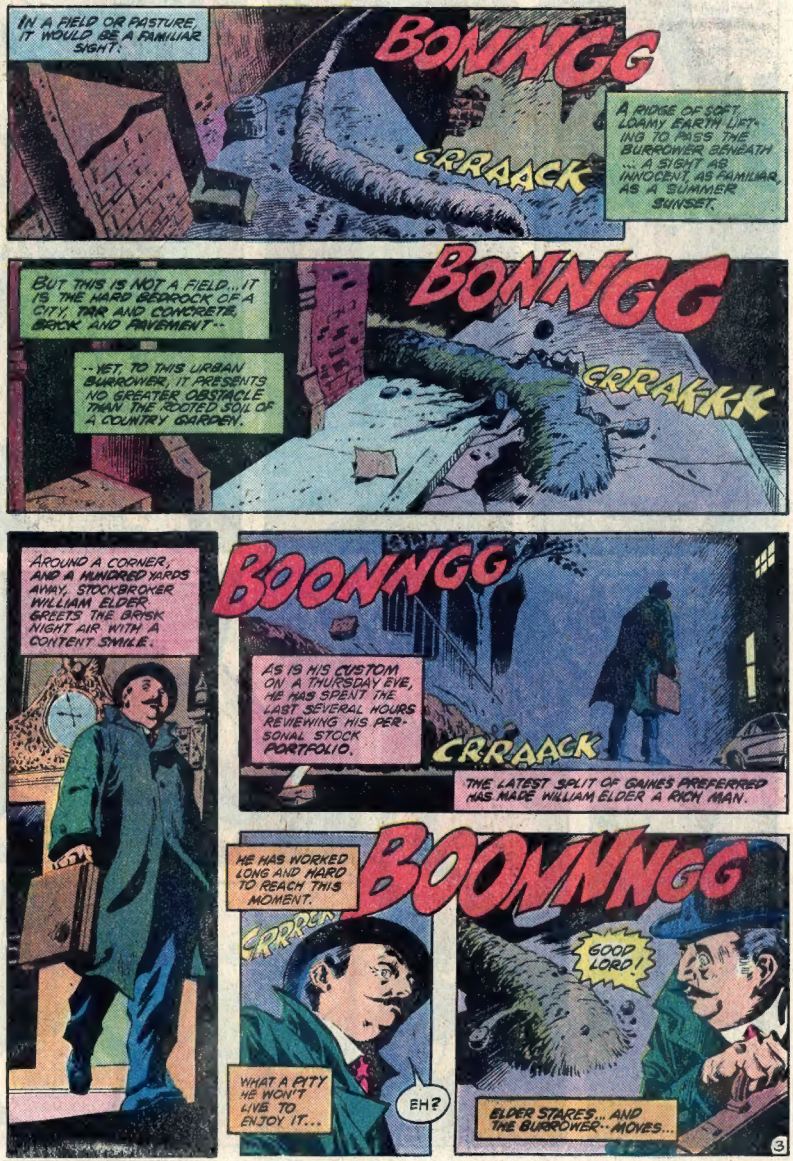
"A MAN CALLED MOLE!"
BATMAN -- URBAN TERRORIST?
VOTE ARTHUR REEVES FOR MAYOR
TUES. NOV. 5, 1984
TEN O'CLOCK.
NOT QUITE THE WITCHING HOUR.
YET, BEFORE THE TOWER CLOCK ON GOTHAM'S ST. MARK CATHEDRAL HAS FINISHED CHIMING THE HOUR, A MAN WILL DIE, AS NO MAN HAS EVER DIED BEFORE.
BONG
BONG
GRRACK
FOR, BENEATH THESE CLUTTERED CITY STREETS--
--SOMETHING MOVES!
2


IN A FIELD OR PASTURE, IT WOULD BE A FAMILIAR SIGHT.
BOONNGG
CRRAACK
A RIDGE OF SOFT, LOAMY EARTH LIFTING TO MISS THE BURROWER BENEATH — A SIGHT AS INNOCENT AS FAMILIAR, AS A SUMMER SUNSET.
BUT THIS IS NOT A FIELD... IT IS THE HARD BEDROCK OF A CITY, TAR AND CONCRETE, BRICK AND PAVEMENT--
--YET, TO THIS URBAN BURROWER, IT PRESENTS NO GREATER OBSTACLE THAN THE ROOTED SOIL OF A COUNTRY GARDEN.
BONNGG
CRRAKKK
AROUND A CORNER, AND A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, STOCKBROKER WILLIAM ELDER GREETS THE BRISK NIGHT AIR WITH A CONTENT SMILE.
BOONNGG
AS IS HIS CUSTOM ON A THURSDAY EVE, HE HAS SPENT THE LAST SEVERAL HOURS REVIEWING HIS PERSONAL STOCK PORTFOLIO.
CRRAACK
THE LATEST SPLIT OF GAINES PREFERRED HAS MADE WILLIAM ELDER A RICH MAN.
HE HAS WORKED LONG AND HARD TO REACH THIS MOMENT.
CRRRCH
WHAT A PITY HE WON'T LIVE TO ENJOY IT...
EH?
BOONNNGG
GOOD LORD!
ELDER STARES... AND THE BURROWER... MOVES...
3

TH-THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE GROUND!
IT'S COMING AFTER ME--!
HAVE TO GET AWAY!
BONNG BONNGG BONNGG
OH LORD...
A DEAD END...
RIG
GANG
ELDER... ELDER, I'VE FOUND YOU...!
I KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE... I CAN SMELL YOU!
ELDER--
BONNNGG
..I'VE COME TO KILL YOU!
YAAAAHHHH
AT THE TENTH CHIME, WILLIAM ELDER'S CRY BREAKS OFF.
SILENCE FOLLOWS, UNTIL--
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?
WHY DON'T YOU KIDS FIND ANOTHER ALLEY TO--HUH?
:PHEW!: WHATTA STINK!
ROTTEN PUNKS MUST'A TURNED OVER SOME GARBAGE CANS!
GETTIN' SO DECENT FOLKS CAN'T LIVE IN PEACE NO MORE!
4

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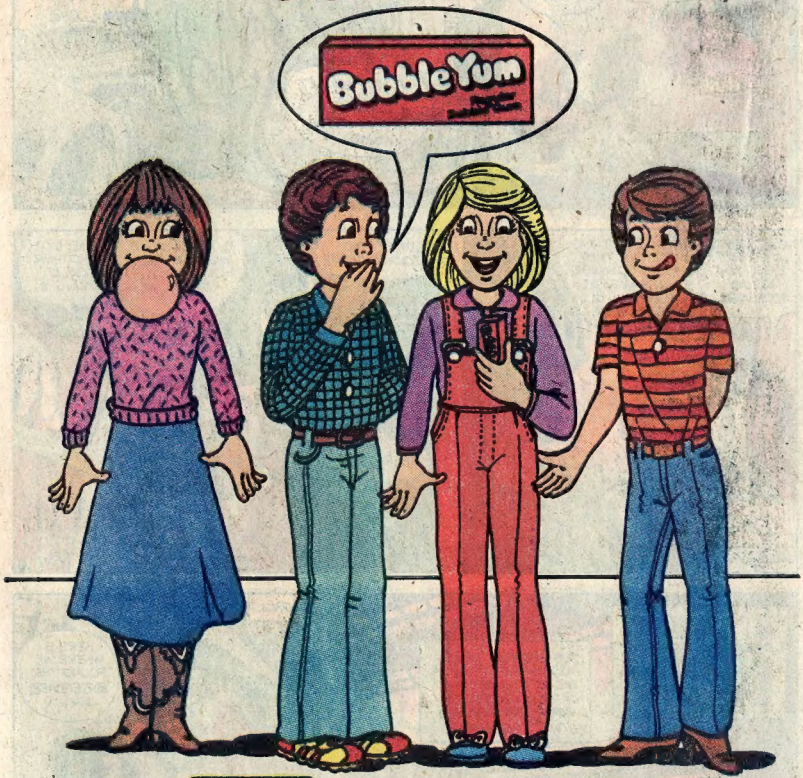
Bubble Yum's got the number yum taste. Pass it on.



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DAWN IS A FAINT LIGHT IN THE EASTERN SKY WHEN A GRIM MISSION BRINGS GOTHAM CITY'S POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON TO THE GROUNDS OF A CHEMICAL PLANT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GOTHAM RIVER...
HE DOES NOT COME ALONE..
NOT A PRETTY SIGHT, IS IT, COMMISSIONER?
I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH WORSE.
WAS HE CARRYING ANY ID?
A FULL MALLET, SIR. WHOEVER BASHED HIM WASN'T AFTER MONEY.
BATMAN ... GOOD, I SEE YOU GOT MY MESSAGE.
WHEN I GOT THE CALL ON THIS ONE, IT SOUNDED SO STRANGE, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED.
WHO'S THE D.O.A.?
HIS CREDIT CARDS SAY HIS NAME'S WILLIAM ELDER.
ELDER? THE STOCKBROKER?
I TOLD YOU IT WAS STRANGE. HOLD ON A MINUTE, WILL YOU?
I'VE GOT ANOTHER CALL COMING IN.
RELATED--?
APPARENTLY SO...
"... TWO OF MY MEN HAVE FOUND ELDER'S BRIEFCASE, DOWN IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT... SIX MILES FROM HERE! ARE YOU COMING?"
THE BATMAN ONLY NODS IN REPLY, AND A MOMENT LATER, TWO CARS ROAR SOUTH UNDER THE GOTHAM RIVER HIGHWAY...
SOON...
HERE'S WHERE WE FOUND THE BRIEFCASE, SIR.
IT WAS LYING UP AGAINST THIS KINDA MOUND.
5

ANY NOTION WHERE THAT "MOUND" CAME FROM, SON?
I FIGURE IT MUST'VE BEEN DUG UP BY A POWER COMPANY CREW.
ANYWAY, HERE'S THE CASE, COMMISSIONER,
HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED.
"POWER COMPANY"? JUDGING BY THAT FAMILIAR ODOR, I DON'T THINK SO!
SNIFF
THIS IS ALL WE NEED WITH AN ELECTION COMING UP--
--A PROMINENT BUSINESS MAN KILLED RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES, EH, BATMAN?
BATMAN?
VROOM
"BLAST THAT MAN--HE'S DONE IT TO ME AGAIN!"
COMMISSIONER GORDON SHOWS MORE EXASPERATION THAN ANNOYANCE, FOR HE HAS LONG SINCE COME TO UNDERSTAND HIS OLD FRIEND'S ABRUPT MANNER...
...A MANNER WHICH CONCEALS A FIERCE CONCERN FOR THE CITY BOTH MEN LOVE.
VROOMMM
TEN MINUTES LATER, THE SLEEK BATMOBILE ROARS THROUGH A HIDDEN ENTRANCE IN THE CUL-DE-SAC KNOWN AS FINGER ALLEY...
AND, AFTER A HIGH-SPEED DESCENT DOWN A SHADOWED RAMP...
... CAR AND MAN ARRIVE IN -- THE BATCAVE.
GOOD MORNING, ALFRED.
AH, GOOD MORNING, MASTER BRUCE.
YOUR BREAKFAST, SIR-- TEA AND TOAST.
JUST TEA TODAY, ALFRED.
6

VERY GOOD, SIR.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW, SIR--MASTER DICK CALLED WHILE YOU WERE OUT.
HE'S RETURNING TO GOTHAM CITY.
SO HE GOT TIRED OF CIRCUS LIFE, DID HE?*
MAYBE NOW HE'LL BE READY TO RESUME COLLEGE.
HE DIDN'T SAY, SIR.
IF I MAY BE SO BOLD AS TO REMARK, MASTER BRUCE--
*SEE PREVIOUS ISSUES.--DICK
--YOU MUST TRY TO REMEMBER THAT YOUNG MR. GRAYSON IS NO LONGER A CHILD.
HE HAS HIS OWN PLANS, HIS OWN AMBITIONS.
MAYBE SO, BUT HE'S STILL MY WARD UNTIL HE TURNS TWENTY-ONE.
I WON'T LET HIM THROW AWAY HIS FUTURE-- I LOVE HIM TOO MUCH.
WHY DO WE ALWAYS HURT THE ONES WE LOVE, ALFRED?
WHY DO THEY--ALWAYS HURT US?
TRUE, MASTER BRUCE-- AND THEN AGAIN, SOMETIMES HE REVEALS HIS SECRET HEART.
I WONDER WHICH IT IS THAT YOU'VE DONE?
NEVER MIND, OLD FRIEND. I'M TIRED.
WHEN A MAN'S WEARY, HE SAYS THINGS --HE DOESN'T MEAN.
A DAY PASSES... AND IN THE DAYLIGHT HOURS, GOTHAM CITY CARRIES ON THE BUSINESS OF A GREAT CITY...
BUT, NIGHT MUST EVER COME AGAIN...
7

AND, IN THE BASEMENT OFFICE OF A WELL-KNOWN WEST GOTHAM PSYCHIATRIST...
I TELL YOU, DOC. I DON'T HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX--
I REALLY AM INFERIOR.
UM-HM. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THIS WAY, MR. KONIGSBERG?
I GUESS IT STARTED WHEN I WAS A KID.
YOU KNOW HOW KIDS HAVE IMAGINARY PLAYMATES?
MY PLAYMATE WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO BE SEEN WITH ME.
THEN, WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, I CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL ONE DAY--
--AND MY PARENTS HAD MOVED.
I TELL YOU, DOCTOR, I'VE HAD IT ROUGH. I COULDN'T EVEN BE DRAFTED.
THE ARMY CLASSIFIED ME 4-H...
CRRAACK
"...IN CASE OF WAR, YOU'RE A HOSTAGE."
MR. KONIGSBERG, THAT'S AN OLD JOKE.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT'S REALLY BOTHERING YOU?
OKAY, DOCTOR, I'LL COME CLEAN.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE GOT THIS TERRIBLE FEAR OF BEING ABANDONED.
IT--/ HEYYY!
CRRRAAACCK
WHAT'S THAT S-SOUND...?
8

DR. KURTZMANN?
EEEE
RR
EEE
SIRENS SCREAM IN THE DISTANCE ...BUT THE BATMAN, MONITORING POLICE CALLS IN HIS BATMOBILE, HAS HEARD THE DISPATCHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "CODE-112"..
..."POSSIBLE BREAK-IN"
...AND IS ON THE SCENE BEFORE GOTHAM'S FINEST..
THAT SMELL...
...IT'S THE SAME ODOR I NOTICED LAST NIGHT.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
D-DOCTOR KURTZMANN...
DR. ANDREW KURTZMANN, THE PSYCHIATRIST?
UH-HUH... WE WERE SITTING HERE... THEN THERE WAS THIS BIG CRUNCHING SOUND, LIKE A PILE-DRIVER EATING THROUGH CONCRETE...
AND WHEN I LOOKED AROUND, THERE WAS THAT MOUND...
--AND KURTZMANN WAS GONE!
STAY HERE. TELL YOUR STORY TO THE POLICE.
WHATTA YOU GONNA DO?
9
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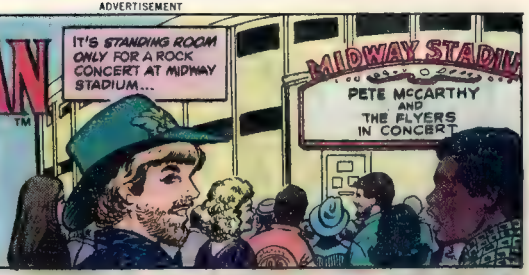
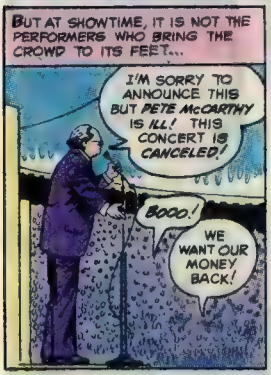
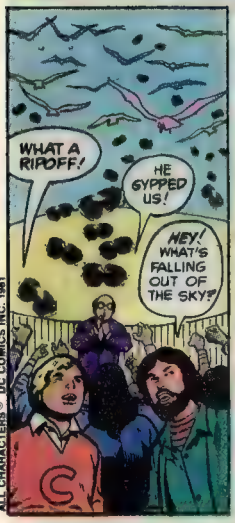
HAWKMAN™ IN CONCERTS AND CUPCAKES




BUT AT SHOWTIME, IT IS NOT THE PERFORMERS WHO BRING THE CROWD TO ITS FEET...
I'M SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THIS BUT PETE McCARTHY IS ILL! THIS CONCERT IS CANCELED!
BOOO!
WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!



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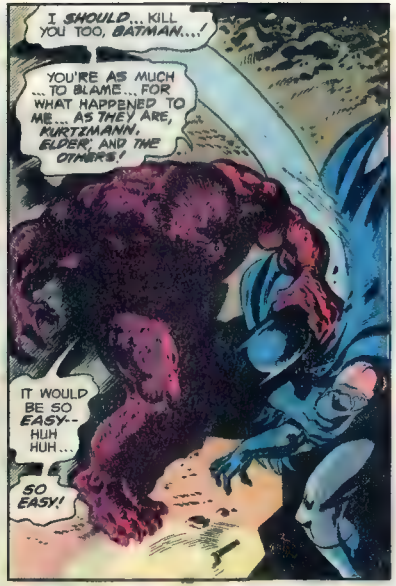
I'M GOING IN.
AROUND HIM, THE WALLS OF THE HOLE ARE ALMOST SMOOTH, COATED WITH SOMETHING OILY AND RANCID.
HE CLIMBS DOWN FIVE, TEN FEET, INTO DARK COOLNESS...
...AND, WITH HIS ONLY LIGHT THE POCKET FLASH IN HIS HAND, HE MOVES FORWARD THROUGH A LOW TUNNEL...
ABRUPTLY, THE TUNNEL WIDENS
HERE, THE STENCH IS ALMOST OVERPOWERING
THIS TUNNEL --OR BURROW --WAS DUG BY HAND!
NO SIGN OF PICK MARKS... THE WALLS, FLOOR, ARE ALL TOO ROUNDED, TOO SMOOTH!
WAIT -- SOMETHING'S MOVING UP AHEAD, AROUND THE NEXT TURN!
DR. KURTZMANN? IS THAT YOU--?

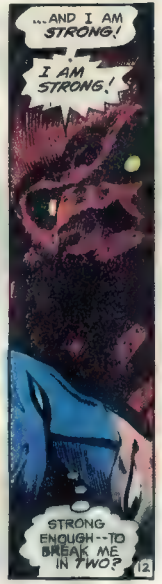
THREE LONG STRIDES BRING HIM TO THE TURNING, AND THEN, AS HE SCRAMBLES OVER A LOW FALL OF DIRT AND ROCK, HE SWEEPS HIS FLASHLIGHT BEAM AHEAD...
...AND STARES INTO THE FACE OF LIVING HORROR!
HUH-HUH... KURTZMANN IS DEAD.
I KILLED HIM... BECAUSE HE DESERVED TO DIE... BECAUSE HE MADE ME THIS...
...BECAUSE HE MADE ME-- THE MOLE!
GOOD GOD!

AND IF YOU THINK... YOU CAN STOP ME... FROM PUNISHING THE OTHERS--
--YOU'RE WRONG-- DEAD WRONG!
RRRIP
ARRHH!


I SHOULD... KILL YOU TOO, BATMAN...!
YOU'RE AS MUCH ... TO BLAME... FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME... AS THEY ARE, KURTZMANN, ELDER, AND THE OTHERS!
IT WOULD BE SO EASY-- HUH HUH...
SO EASY!

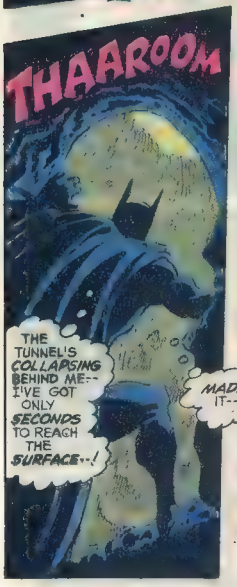
WOULD IT?
WOULD IT-- REALLY?
WUMP

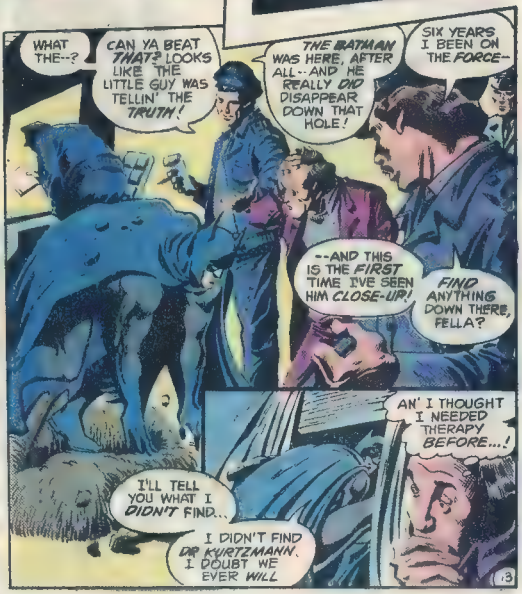
YOU THINK THAT HURT ME?
LOOK AT ME, BATMAN! MY EYES ...ARE GOOD IN THE DARKNESS, BETTER THAN YOURS.. BUT STILL, YOU CAN SEE!
MY SKIN... IS HARD AS STONE...


...AND I AM STRONG!
I AM STRONG!
STRONG ENOUGH--TO BREAK ME IN TWO?

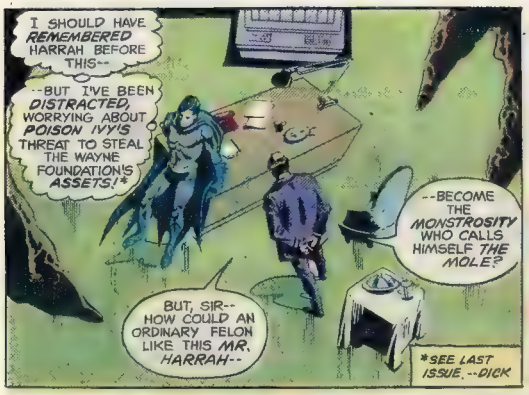
NO!
MUSCLE IS JUST SO MUCH MEAT WITHOUT SKILL, MOLE!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT BALANCE AND LEVERAGE--
--BUT I DO!
YOU SLIPPED FREE OF MY HAMMERLOCK--TRIPPING ME?
AAHHHHHH
KRASH!!!

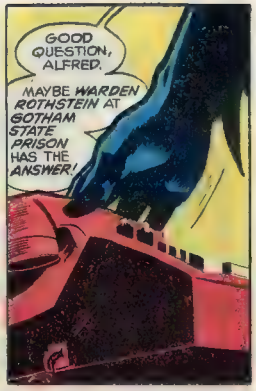
RRUMMBLE
HE HIT THE TUNNEL WALL--
--AND THE IMPACT IS BRINGING THE ROOF DOWN!


THAAROOM
THE TUNNEL'S COLLAPSING BEHIND ME--I'VE GOT ONLY SECONDS TO REACH THE SURFACE--!
MADE IT--!

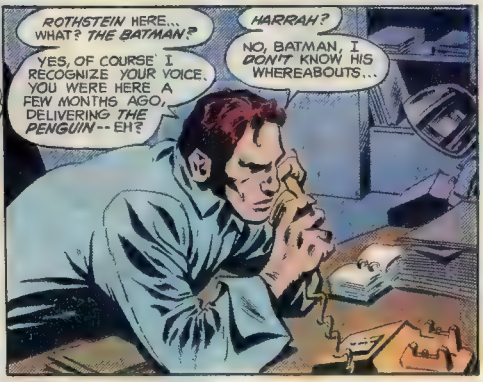

WHAT THE--?
CAN YA BEAT THAT? LOOKS LIKE THE LITTLE GUY WAS TELLIN' THE TRUTH!
THE BATMAN WAS HERE, AFTER ALL--AND HE REALLY DID DISAPPEAR DOWN THAT HOLE!
SIX YEARS I BEEN ON THE FORCE--
--AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM CLOSE-UP!
FIND ANYTHING DOWN THERE, FELLA?
AN' I THOUGHT I NEEDED THERAPY BEFORE...!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I DIDN'T FIND...
I DIDN'T FIND DR KURTZMANN. I DOUBT WE EVER WILL

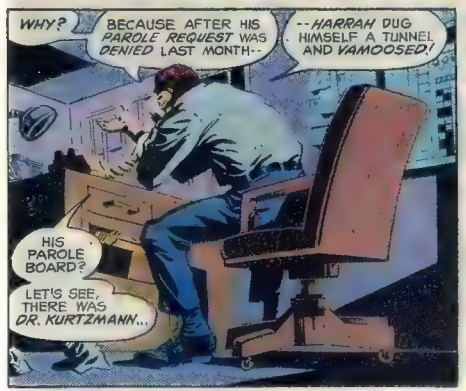
MIDNIGHT, AND, BENEATH THE GLEAMING GLASS-AND-STEEL EDIFICE KNOWN AS THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
...IN THE ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL THAT HAS BECOME THE NEW BATCAVE, A THOUGHTFUL BRUCE WAYNE PUTS TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, AND COMES UP WITH--
--HARRAH.
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THINK WHERE I COULD HAVE MET THE MOLE BEFORE, ALFRED...
...SINCE, OBVIOUSLY, JUDGING BY WHAT HE SAID, HE KNOWS ME.
I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD EVER FORGET SOMEONE OF HIS APPEARANCE, SIR.
AND IT STRUCK ME, JUST NOW, THAT I ONCE FOUGHT A CROOK CALLED THE MOLE SOME YEARS AGO. HIS REAL NAME WAS HARRAH.
FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME--
--HE LOOKS RATHER UNIQUE.
THAT'S WHAT CONFUSED ME, ALFRED!
THE HARRAH I KNEW WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON CROOK.
"HIS GIMMICK WAS A CLEVER ONE--HE USED STORM-SEWER CONTRACTS AS AN EXCUSE FOR TUNNELING INTO BANKS.
"ONCE WE FIGURED OUT HIS M.O., SUPERMAN, ROBIN AND I TRICKED HIM INTO DIGGING HIS WAY STRAIGHT TO JAIL."*
"HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAROLED BY NOW."
*WAY BACK IN WORLD'S FINEST #80. --DICK


I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HARRAH BEFORE THIS--
--BUT I'VE BEEN DISTRACTED, WORRYING ABOUT POISON IVY'S THREAT TO STEAL THE WAYNE FOUNDATION'S ASSETS!*
--BECOME THE MONSTROSITY WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE MOLE?
BUT, SIR-- HOW COULD AN ORDINARY FELON LIKE THIS MR. HARRAH--
*SEE LAST ISSUE, --DICK


GOOD QUESTION, ALFRED.
MAYBE WARDEN ROTHSTEIN AT GOTHAM STATE PRISON HAS THE ANSWER!

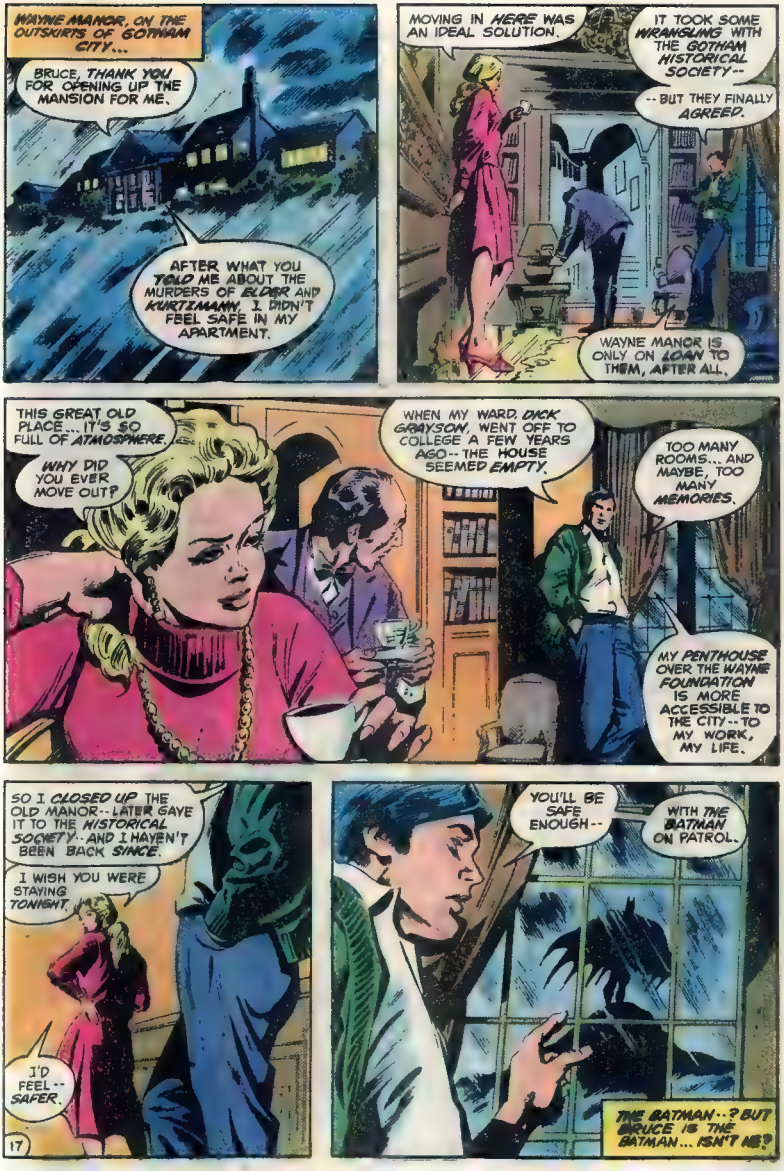
MOMENTS LATER, ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GOTHAM RIVER, A PHONE RINGS IN THE PRIVATE QUARTERS OF PRISON WARDEN ROTHSTEIN.
YAWN! LORD, I HOPE IT'S NOT ANOTHER BREAK-OUT!
RRING

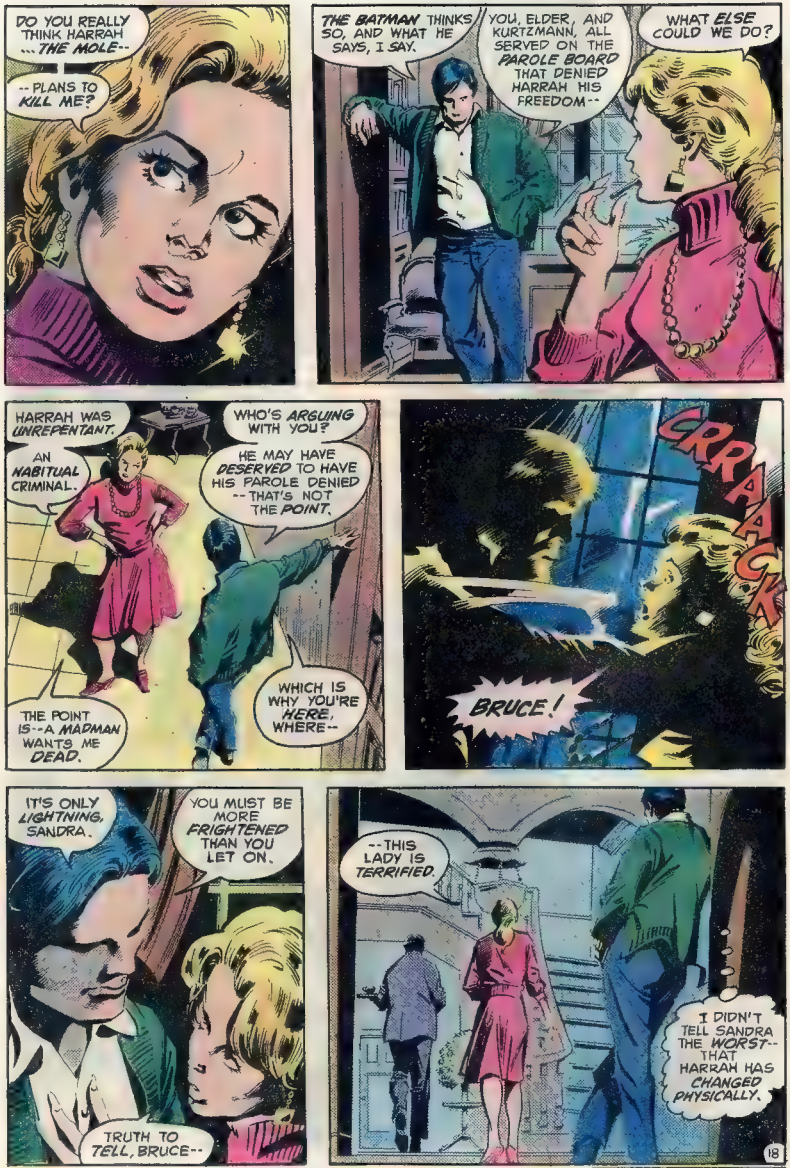

ROTHSTEIN HERE... WHAT? THE BATMAN?
HARRAH?
YES, OF COURSE I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE. YOU WERE HERE A FEW MONTHS AGO, DELIVERING THE PENGUIN-- EH?
NO, BATMAN, I DON'T KNOW HIS WHEREABOUTS...


WHY?
BECAUSE AFTER HIS PAROLE REQUEST WAS DENIED LAST MONTH--
--HARRAH DUG HIMSELF A TUNNEL AND VAMOOSED!
HIS PAROLE BOARD?
LET'S SEE, THERE WAS DR. KURTZMANN...

...WILLIAM ELDER, AND SANDRA CLARK.
ALFRED, THIS IS BEGINNING TO MAKE A TERRIBLE KIND OF SENSE.

FOR GOTHAM CITY, IT IS ANOTHER SOFT LATE-SUMMER DAY..
AND WHEN THE CITY'S ONE MILLION COMMUTERS BEGIN THEIR TWILIGHT FLIGHT TO THE SUBURBS, PAUSING TO BUY THE EVENING FINAL --
GOTHAM GLOBE
CHUMP
--IT IS WITH THE SENSE OF A LOVELY DAY MISSED, A SUMMER AFTERNOON LOST...
NOT ALL THE CITY'S INHABITANTS LONG FOR THE DAYLIGHT, HOWEVER...
SOME PREFER THE NIGHT.
SOME -- WELCOME THE DARKNESS.
BETTER CUT THE BANDS ON THAT LAST STACK BEFORE THE RUSH STARTS.
HUH? WHERE'D IT GO?
TERRIFIC! NOW WHATTA I DO WITHOUT THE EVENIN' PAPER?
SANDRA CLARK ... HUH-HUH.
YOU ARE THE LAST.
GATHER
Ms. Sandra Clark
MS. SANDRA CLARK, PRESIDENT OF GOTHAM CHEMICALS, IS RECUPERATING FROM AN ILLNESS AT THE WAYNE MANSION.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIDE... HUH-HUH...
... YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE MOLE!
16


WAYNE MANOR, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
BRUCE, THANK YOU FOR OPENING UP THE MANSION FOR ME.
AFTER WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THE MURDERS OF ELDER AND KURTZMANN, I DIDN'T FEEL SAFE IN MY APARTMENT.
MOVING IN HERE WAS AN IDEAL SOLUTION.
IT TOOK SOME WRANGLING WITH THE GOTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY--
--BUT THEY FINALLY AGREED.
WAYNE MANOR IS ONLY ON LOAN TO THEM, AFTER ALL.
THIS GREAT OLD PLACE... IT'S SO FULL OF ATMOSPHERE.
WHY DID YOU EVER MOVE OUT?
WHEN MY WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WENT OFF TO COLLEGE A FEW YEARS AGO--THE HOUSE SEEMED EMPTY.
TOO MANY ROOMS... AND MAYBE, TOO MANY MEMORIES.
MY PENTHOUSE OVER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION IS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE CITY--TO MY WORK, MY LIFE.
SO I CLOSED UP THE OLD MANOR--LATER GAVE IT TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY--AND I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK SINCE.
I WISH YOU WERE STAYING TONIGHT.
I'D FEEL--SAFER.
YOU'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH--
WITH THE BATMAN ON PATROL.
THE BATMAN--? BUT BRUCE IS THE BATMAN... ISN'T HE?
17


DO YOU REALLY THINK HARRAH ...THE MOLE--
--PLANS TO KILL ME?
THE BATMAN THINKS SO, AND WHAT HE SAYS, I SAY.
YOU, ELDER, AND KURTZMANN, ALL SERVED ON THE PAROLE BOARD THAT DENIED HARRAH HIS FREEDOM--
WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO?
HARRAH WAS UNREPENTANT.
AN HABITUAL CRIMINAL.
WHO'S ARGUING WITH YOU?
HE MAY HAVE DESERVED TO HAVE HIS PAROLE DENIED -- THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
THE POINT IS--A MADMAN WANTS ME DEAD.
WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE HERE, WHERE--
CRRAACK
BRUCE!
IT'S ONLY LIGHTNING, SANDRA.
YOU MUST BE MORE FRIGHTENED THAN YOU LET ON.
TRUTH TO TELL, BRUCE--
--THIS LADY IS TERRIFIED.
I DIDN'T TELL SANDRA THE WORST-- THAT HARRAH HAS CHANGED PHYSICALLY.
18
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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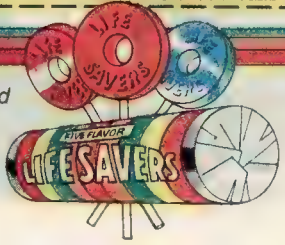
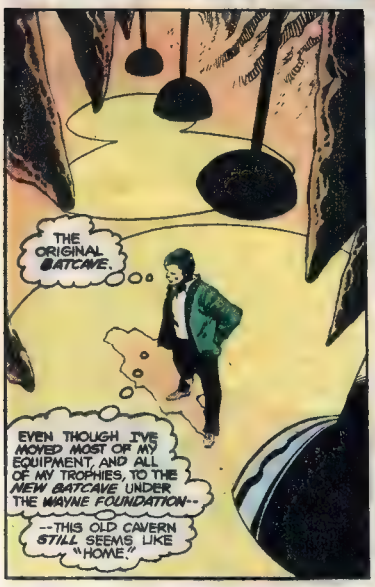


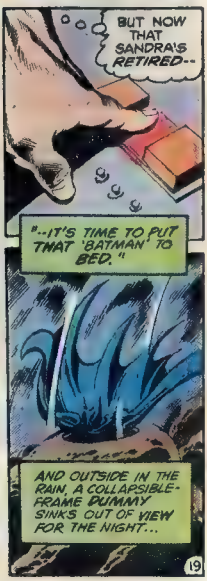
BAD ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'RE BEING STALKED FOR A KILL--!
HOW MUCH WORSE WOULD IT BE--TO KNOW YOUR WOULD-BE MURDERER IS A MONSTER?

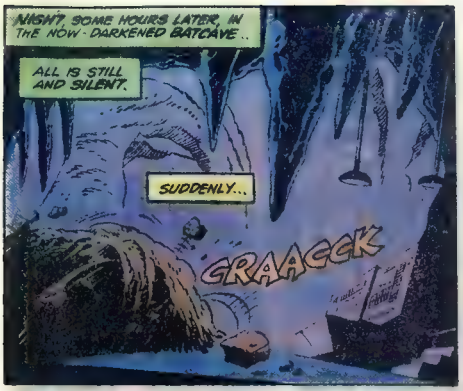
SANDRA IS UPSTAIRS BY NOW.
AND I HAVE BUSINESS--DOWNSTAIRS.

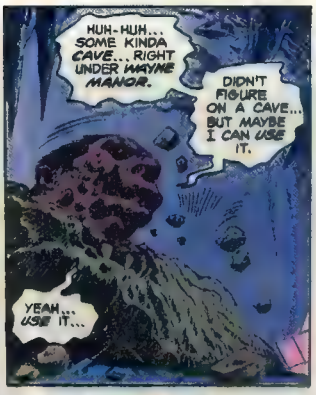
THE OLD "STAIRS BEHIND THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK" IS CORNY--
--BUT A PART OF ME HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED THIS ROUTE TO THE HIDDEN ELEVATOR IN THE LIBRARY.

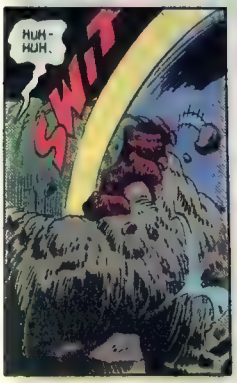

THE ORIGINAL BATCAVE.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE MOVED MOST OF MY EQUIPMENT, AND ALL OF MY TROPHIES, TO THE NEW BATCAVE UNDER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION--
--THIS OLD CAVERN STILL SEEMS LIKE "HOME."

I'VE KEPT A FEW MACHINES OPERABLE, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.
SUCH AS THIS COMPUTER-CONTROLLED ANIMITRON, FOR USE WHEN BRUCE WAYNE AND THE BATMAN HAVE TO BE VISIBLE SIMULTANEOUSLY AT WAYNE MANOR.

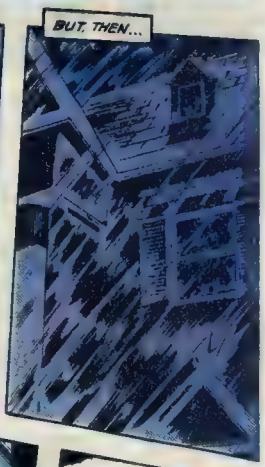

BUT NOW THAT SANDRA'S RETIRED--
"...IT'S TIME TO PUT THAT 'BATMAN' TO BED."
AND OUTSIDE IN THE RAIN, A COLLAPSIBLE-FRAME DUMMY SINKS OUT OF VIEW FOR THE NIGHT...


NIGHT, SOME HOURS LATER, IN THE NOW-DARKENED BATCAVE..
ALL IS STILL AND SILENT.
SUDDENLY...
GRAACCK


HUH-HUH... SOME KINDA CAVE... RIGHT UNDER WAYNE MANOR.
DIDN'T FIGURE ON A CAVE... BUT MAYBE I CAN USE IT.
YEAH... USE IT...


HUH-HUH.
SWIT

OUTSIDE, A STORM BLACKENS ALL THE EASTERN SEABOARD.
YET INSIDE, WAYNE MANOR HOLDS BACK THE DARK OF NIGHT WITH WARM LIGHT.

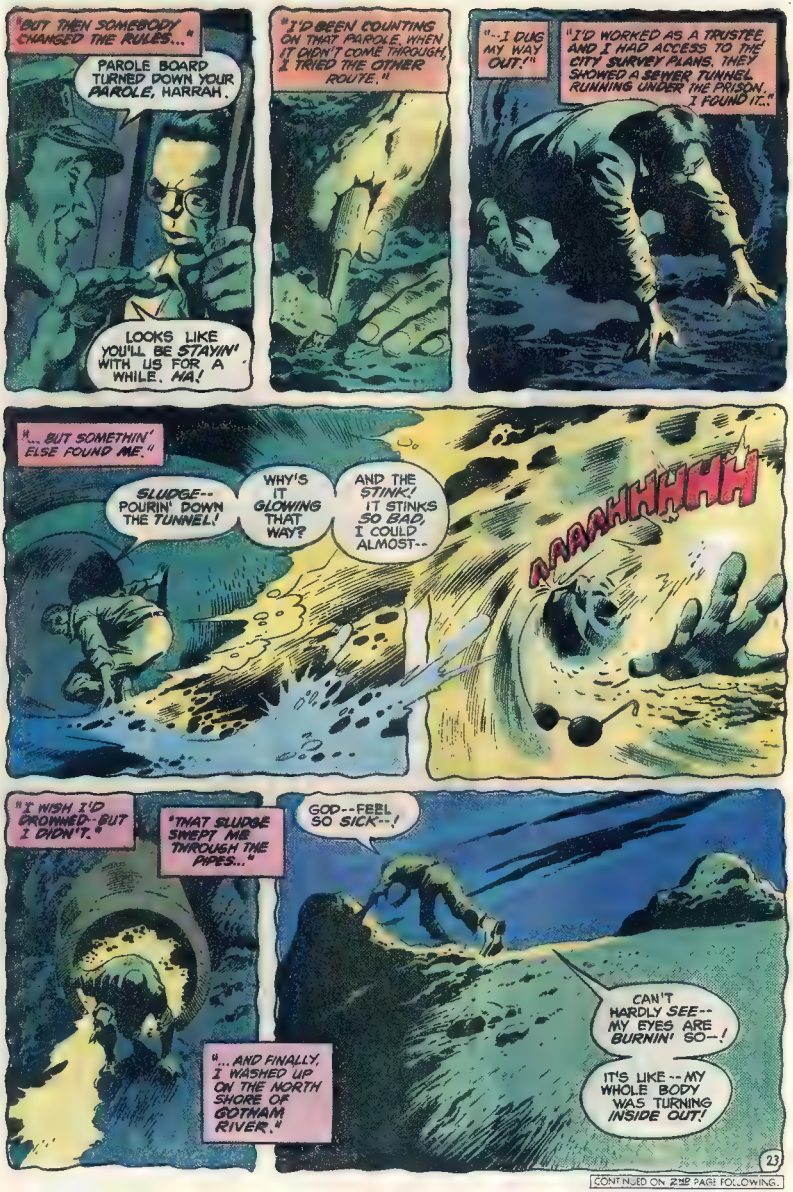

BUT, THEN...

...
...WHAT WOKE ME?
THE LIGHTS... THEY'VE GONE OUT!

A FUSE MUST HAVE BLOWN.
CLICK
CLICK
WONDERFUL.

YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE GIRL, SANDRA.
NO NEED TO BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.
NOT WITH THE BATMAN PATROLLING OUTSIDE...!
FUNNY THING ABOUT FEAR, THOUGH.
EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T NEED IT-- IT CAN COME UP AND GRAB YOUR HEART!
SANDRA, DARLING, WHAT YOU NEED IS A HOT CUP OF COFFEE.
NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP TONIGHT!
SHE IS MANY THINGS, THIS WOMAN-- INTELLIGENT, AMBITIOUS, WITTY, AND CHARMING...
SHE IS EVEN BRAVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LIFE SHE LEADS--BUT HERS IS CIVILIZED BRAVERY...
CRRAAK
...AND WHEN SHE IS CONFRONTED BY MAD SAVAGERY--
DEAR GOD
--WHAT ELSE CAN SHE DO BUT SCREAM?
AEEEEE

SCREAMING IS ALL SHE REMEMBERS, FOR A TIME.
THAT, AND A SWELLING-UP OF SHADOWS, WHICH GRADUALLY PASS AWAY, LIKE A FADING--
--DREAM.
I-I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING!
LADY, IF YOU'RE DREAMING--
--THEN I'M YOUR NIGHTMARE!
SHE CHOKES ANOTHER SCREAM. HIS STENCH IS STOMACH-WRENCHING.
YOUR VOICE...
SO YOU REMEMBER MY VOICE, DO YOU?
THAT'S THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT DIDN'T CHANGE--NOT MUCH.
EVEN MY MIND CHANGED. SOMETIMES I FIND MYSELF THINKING...LIKE AN ANIMAL.
BUT SOMETIMES ...HUH-HUH... I'M CLEAR... AND MY MEMORY'S REAL GOOD.
...AND THAT'S WHEN I HATE.
I USED TO BE A MAN NAMED HARRAH. YEAH, A MAN... CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT, LOOKING AT ME NOW?
ONCE I WAS THE BEST DIGGER WHO EVER ROBBED A BANK.
I WAS A LEGEND--TILL I WAS CAUGHT.
BEING CAUGHT WAS PART OF THE GAME. IT WAS A RISK YOU TOOK.
I WAS READY TO PAY THE PRICE... AND I PAID. LONG YEARS I PAID, GOIN' CRAZY IN PRISON...!
22


"BUT THEN SOMEBODY CHANGED THE RULES..."
PAROLE BOARD TURNED DOWN YOUR PAROLE, HARRAH.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE STAYIN' WITH US FOR A WHILE. HA!
"I'D BEEN COUNTING ON THAT PAROLE. WHEN IT DIDN'T COME THROUGH, I TRIED THE OTHER ROUTE."
"--I DUG MY WAY OUT!"
"I'D WORKED AS A TRUSTEE, AND I HAD ACCESS TO THE CITY SURVEY PLANS. THEY SHOWED A SEWER TUNNEL RUNNING UNDER THE PRISON. I FOUND IT."
"... BUT SOMETHIN' ELSE FOUND ME."
SLUDGE-- POURIN' DOWN THE TUNNEL!
WHY'S IT GLOWING THAT WAY?
AND THE STINK! IT STINKS SO BAD, I COULD ALMOST--
AAAAHHHHH
"I WISH I'D DROWNED--BUT I DIDN'T."
"THAT SLUDGE SWEPT ME THROUGH THE PIPES..."
GOD--FEEL SO SICK--!
"... AND FINALLY, I WASHED UP ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GOTHAM RIVER."
CAN'T HARDLY SEE-- MY EYES ARE BURNIN' SO--!
IT'S LIKE--MY WHOLE BODY WAS TURNING INSIDE OUT!

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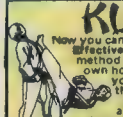

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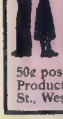

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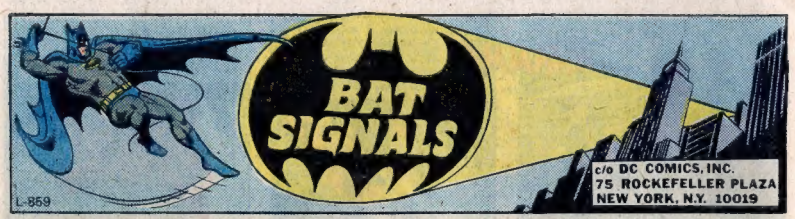
PAIN GRABBING MY GUTS-- CAN'T BELIEVE HOW BAD IT HURTS!
HANDS GETTING STIFF--FINGERS FEEL LIKE CLAWS--!
WHY?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
"THAT SEWER SLUDGE--FROM A CHEMICAL PLANT UPRIVER...
"SOMEHOW IT CHANGED ME. FROM A MAN...INTO A HALF-HUMAN MOLE!"
YOUR FAULT, LADY. YOURS!
NO!
MANAGED TO KNOCK OVER THAT CANDLE!
MAYBE IT'LL GIVE ME THE FEW SECONDS I NEED--TO GET AWAY--!
CLEVER.
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THE OTHER TWO. THEY PANICKED.
BUT YOU FORGOT SOMETHING, LADY--
--MOLES SEE IN THE DARK!
OH MY GOD
CLICK
YAAAAAH!
WHERE'D THAT LIGHT COME FROM?
SO BRIGHT --- BLINDING ME!

THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA, MOLE.
WHEN I FOLLOWED YOU DOWN HERE, I BROUGHT ALONG A PORTABLE SPOT--
--AND IT'S SERVED ITS PURPOSE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO TURN THIS RUSTED VALVE!
YOU KNOW HOW FARMERS DEAL WITH MOLES, DON'T YOU?
THEY FLOOD THEIR BURROWS!
THAT PIPE MUST BE PART OF THE GOTHAM WATER LINE!
WHATTA I DO? WHATTA I DO?
HE'S DISTRACTED! GOOD-- THAT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO GET SANDRA OUT OF HERE!
NO! SHE'S TURNING AWAY-- CAN'T REACH HER!
I KNOW WHAT TO DO--!
FIRST, GOTTA GET RID OF THAT LIGHT!
CRASH
TINKLE
NOW WE FIGHT ON MY TERMS!
25

LUCKY I CAUGHT UP TO SANDRA BEFORE THE LIGHTS WENT OUT!
PUT THESE GOGGLES ON, MS. CLARK.
THEY WORK ON THE IMAGE-INTENSIFIER PRINCIPLE.
WEARING THEM, WE CAN CUT DOWN THE MOLE'S ADVANTAGE!
SANDRA SHOULD BE SAFE ON THAT LEDGE WHERE I LEFT HER--!
SPLASH
POOR SHOT, MOLE! YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
THAT ANGERED HIM--
--AND ANGRY IS JUST JUST HOW I WANT HIM!
KEEP HIM RATTLED--RAGING--!
BLAST YOU, BATMAN!
YOU DESERVE TO DIE, TOO-- UNNNH! CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE!
WON'T DO THAT AGAIN!
THUD
I CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE SAID! RAGE IS MAKING HIM EVEN MORE BESTIAL!
UP THEY CLIMB, ALONG A MUDDY CAVE WALL, TRADING BLOWS THAT WOULD KILL LESSER MEN...
THEY'VE NO MORE BREATH LEFT FOR TAUNTS AND CURSES...
AND WHEN AT LAST A CLAWED FIST CLOSES ABOUT THE BATMAN'S THROAT, THE MOLE IS TOO EXHAUSTED TO FEEL TRIUMPH!

WHAMM
... AND THAT'S JUST AS WELL...
WHATEVER WAS LEFT OF HUMANITY IN THE MOLE IS GONE NOW, DESTROYED BY BESTIAL RAGE...
SPAS
...AND IT IS SOMETHING NOT QUITE A MAN OR BEAST THAT IS SWEPT AWAY THROUGH THE FLOODED TUNNELS...
AFTER A TIME, ITS PITIFUL CRIES ARE SILENCED BY THE FLOOD.
AS FOR THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE, AND SANDRA CLARK...
THIS TUNNEL SHOULD LEAD US OUTSIDE, MS. CLARK.
THE HILLS OUTSIDE GOTHAM ARE FILLED WITH THESE CAVES.
I PROMISE YOU, SANDRA--ALL HE'LL CARE ABOUT, IS THAT YOU'RE SAFE!
JUST MY LUCK THE MOLE FOUND ONE NEAR BRUCE WAYNE'S MANSION.
OH! POOR BRUCE --WHEN HE SEES WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS KITCHEN--!
THE BATMAN SMILES...
HOURS LATER WHEN HIDDEN VENTS HAVE DRAINED THE BATCAVE...
NO USE SEARCHING ANY FURTHER, ALFRED.
THE MOLE IS GONE... AND WHETHER HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD, THERE'S NO WAY TO SAY.
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED, SIR?
IF HE IS ALIVE HE COULD KNOW THE SECRET OF THE BATCAVE BENEATH WAYNE MANOR!
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN I NEED TO, ALFRED.
RIGHT NOW, I WANT FOOD, A SHOWER, AND SOME SLEEP...
...AND DON'T WAKE ME UNTIL TOMORROW!
END



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Dear Reader,

May we take just a moment? To say "Thank you" for purchasing this magazine. Yes, you have noticed that economic conditions necessitated a slight adjustment in our package. Yet, note also that we are still offering the best deal in the industry: About 2.2 cents per page for the highest quality and quantity possible.

Then, too; The Line of Super-Stars features the most well-known titles (BATMAN to DETECTIVE COMICS), the most respected array of talent (Colan and Conway to Newton and Novick) AND the widest variety of material available (from adventure to war).

But you already knew all that, right? You. Our motivation to excel.

Dear Paul,

Three months ago, I wrote you a fairly sarcastic letter complaining about the first of your four-part Ra's Al Ghul saga. Now that the epic has come to an end, I've been re-reading the past several issues starting with BATMAN #330 and the Batman tabloid published a few years back reprinting the first Ra's story. Although there are still flaws in the present tale, I can now say I understand the whole thing. I always thought of Ra's as a cross between Fu Manchu and Dracula, but I realize he is more than that. Like Fu, he craves domination of the world and takes a life-giving elixir, but Ra's seems to crave men more (starting with Bruce) than he does a country. The domination of Talia and the things he would do to obtain Bruce are proof of his obsession. Like Dracula, he wishes to gain life through possession of others and the "elixir of life", but Dracula *is* evil while Ra's *becomes* evil. They both crave, but one is because he is, and the other rationalizes it. I hope I'm not just talking out of my hat. The above observations were discovered in BATMAN #332-335. I have a feeling that like Fu and Dracula before him, Ra's death has been "greatly exaggerated". I'm not satisfied with the "end" of Ra's. I'm sure we'll see more of him.

Like BATMAN #332, this concluding issue has a few flaws in pacing. The whole issue had too many starts and stops. Batman's joining Ra's was a bit sudden, as was his first victory on pages 10 and 11. The final fight scene was pretty good, and very effective as far as tension goes (though we all knew Batman would win), but I always thought that the more Ra's went into his Pit, the madder he would become, until he couldn't control his sanity again. An ending with this angle would have been better than the boiling flesh bit. But, he was mad so I can't complain.

I wrote this letter to counteract my first one. I realize now what was done in the first part of this story, and most of my complaints aren't valid as the tale winds down. Sorry if I may have over done it a bit. Thanks for another fine story.

Glenn Dressler
Kankakee, Il.

*****

Dick,

The conclusion of the Lazarus Affair was pretty good. I am very happy that Ra's is gone! He has shown up too much since he first appeared.

Anthony Peter Molchan
Greenville, NC

Dear Editor,

BATMAN #332-335 was no doubt intended to be THE Batman story of all time, with a world-wide scope. It failed on all counts.

Too many protracted fight scenes, the reduction to nameless cyphers of Faraday, Catwoman and Robin, and lots of meaningless filler.

Charles Brown
Brentwood, NY

*****

Dear Dick,

Happy days are here again. BATMAN #335 was fantastic. The issue was action-packed and fast-paced. Marv did a top-notch job and Irv came through with beautiful art.

Kevin Klis
Pickering, Ontario, Canada

*****

Editor,

STUPENDOUS! I have been a Batman reader for years and am glad to see the secret of Ra's Al Ghul revealed. I couldn't have asked for a better ending to The Lazarus Affair.

William Mullins
Cape Girardeau, MO

*****

Dear Editor,

Sorry, the story was a big letdown.

Mike Sopp
Erie, PA

*****

Dear Editor,

SOLID!

Gary Thompson
Dearborn, MI

*****

Editor,

TOPNOTCH! Keep Catwoman, please. My compliments to Irv Novick for a bang-up job.

Kamran Raja
West Croyden, Surrey, England

*****

So much mail and so little space. Thanks to one and all and a special note to the following who took the time to praise or knock us: Dave Rice, N. Liverpool, England, John Hebert, Rex Arnold, Huntsville, AL, Scott Gibson, Evergreen, CO, Scott Sloanaker, Winchester, VA, Karen Wu, Cupertino, CA, Larry Julius, Elmhurst, IL, Verde, Franklin, PA, Karl Gillette, San Francisco, CA, Paul Green, Virginia Beach, VA and Tim Wahowske, Emmett, MI.

Thank you and good afternoon.

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